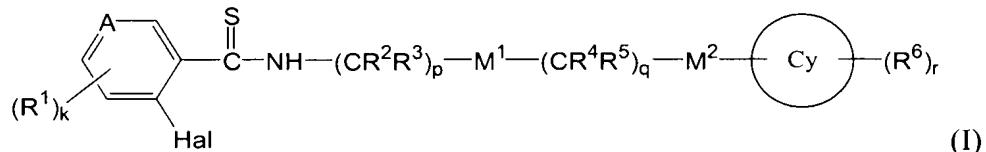


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A thioamide compound represented by the formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein

A is a nitrogen atom, N-oxide, C-NO₂ or C-CN;

Hal is a halogen atom;

~~M¹ is an alkyl group which may be substituted, an alkenyl group which may be substituted, an alkynyl group which may be substituted, a cycloalkyl group which may be substituted, a cycloalkenyl group which may be substituted, an aryl group which may be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may be substituted, an amino group which may be substituted, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, SO or SO₂;~~

M² is an amino group which may be substituted, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a single bond;

R¹ is a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an alkyl group which may be substituted, an alkoxy group which may be substituted, an alkylthio group which may be substituted, an amino group which may be substituted or a heterocyclic group which may be substituted;

each of R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ is independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may be substituted, a cyano group or an alkyloxycarbonyl group;

R⁶ is a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an alkyl group which may be substituted, an alkenyl group which may be substituted, an alkynyl group which may be

substituted, a cycloalkyl group which may be substituted, a cycloalkenyl group which may be substituted, an aryl group which may be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may be substituted, an amino group which may be substituted or B-Q (wherein B is a carbonyl group, a carbonyloxy group, an oxycarbonyl group, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, SO or SO₂; and Q is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may be substituted, an alkenyl group which may be substituted, an alkynyl group which may be substituted, a cycloalkyl group which may be substituted, a cycloalkenyl group which may be substituted, an aryl group which may be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may be substituted or an amino group which may be substituted);

Cy is a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; each of k, p and q is independently an integer of from 0 to 3; and r is an integer of from 0 to 5.

Claim 2 (Original): The compound according to Claim 1, wherein p and q are 0, or a salt thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A cytokine production inhibitor ~~containing~~ comprising the compound as defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

Claim 4 (Original): The cytokine production inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the cytokine is Th1 type cytokine.

Claim 5 (Original): The cytokine production inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the cytokine is interferon γ .

Claim 6 (Original): The cytokine production inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the cytokine is Th2 type cytokine.

Claim 7 (Original): The cytokine production inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the cytokine is interleukin 5.

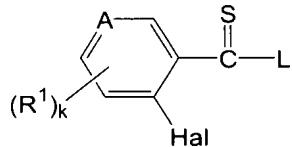
Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A preventive or therapeutic medicine for diseases accompanied by hyperactivated immune functions, which ~~contains~~ comprises the compound as defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

Claim 9 (Original): The preventive or therapeutic medicine according to Claim 8, wherein the disease accompanied by hyperactivated immune functions is at least one allergic disease selected from urticaria, food allergy, anaphylactic shock, hypereosinophilic syndrome, asthma, allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis and atopic dermatitis.

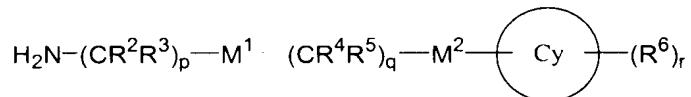
Claim 10 (Original): The preventive or therapeutic medicine according to Claim 8, wherein the disease accompanied by hyperactivated immune functions is a systemic autoimmune disease.

Claim 11 (Original): The preventive or therapeutic medicine according to Claim 8, wherein the disease accompanied by hyperactivated immune functions is at least one organ specific autoimmune disease selected from chronic rheumatoid arthritis, type I diabetes, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, myasthenia gravis and multiple sclerosis.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A process for producing the compound as defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula (II):

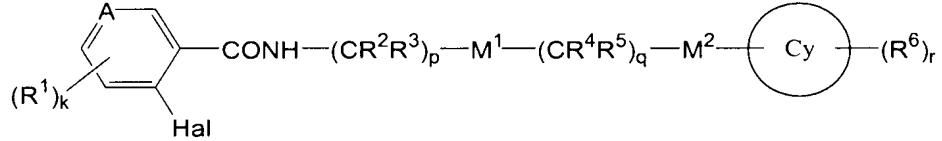


(wherein A, R¹, Hal and k are the same as defined in Claim 1, and L is a leaving group) with a compound represented by the formula (III):



(wherein M¹, M², R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, Cy, p, q and r are the same as defined in Claim 1).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A process for producing the compound as defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula (IV):



(wherein A, R¹, Hal, k, M¹, M², R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, Cy, p, q and r are the same as defined in Claim 1) with a thiocarbonylating agent.